



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

work which her mother does. If she is still addicted to embroidery, her productions will be artistic additions to the ever growing fund of home adornments.

Sloyd, which is now as womanly a pursuit as bicycling, is also an important factor in fostering exactness, neatness and utility, and offers a more serviceable range of Christmas presents for admiring elderly relatives than cheap embroidery. The use of the needle is coeval with human life, but nature-studies and Sloyd are limiting its vagaries, and showing that adaptability to purpose and exactness in execution are necessary in any mode of self support or for any permanent enjoyment of the work of one's hands.

KATE GANNETT WELLS.

---

### HOW CAN HOMICIDE BE DECREASED?

EVERY American reader must have been profoundly impressed by Professor Cesare Lombroso's recent discussion of the increase of homicide in the United States, by the appalling revelations which he makes, by his masterly treatment of the whole great problem, and by the practical wisdom of the remedies which he recommends. While probably few would pretend to such a knowledge of scientific criminology as would warrant them in an attempt to criticise the learned Professor's theories, it may be admissible to suggest two or three amendments growing out of actual experience and close observation in the very midst of the conditions at which he looks from an outside standpoint. An inside view by no means lessens the seriousness or the complicated character of the situation, but it suggests several considerations which seem to have escaped the sharp eye of the Italian criminologist. It points out very distinctively three great causes of the disease to which he has made no allusion and for which he has suggested no remedy.

1. It cannot be denied by anyone at all familiar with our conditions of life in America, that one of the chief factors which have contributed towards the increase of homicide has been the pardoning power lodged in the highest officials of our state and municipal governments. We feel quite sure that a close inquiry would reveal the fact that the hope of pardon after conviction in the courts of law has been distinctly present in the minds of many criminals, as likely to secure immunity from punishment. So long as it is possible for a convicted criminal, on whose behalf every artifice of legal delay and trickery has been exhausted in vain, to secure a pardon from a corrupt governor by bribery or by some powerful political influence, or to win one from a soft-hearted governor by the persistent pleading of friends and family, just so long and so far will the might and majesty of the law be unrecognized by the lower elements of society and a visible loophole left open for the escape of the criminal from justice. A cursory reading of our newspapers and a slight examination of our criminal records will make it abundantly evident that here lies one of the chief hopes and consolations of our criminal classes.

2. A frightfully large proportion of our homicides have women as their victims, a result, as we believe, of their helpless position in America. The exigencies of our business and social life either leave them alone at home or force them to go freely abroad, and in either case make them peculiarly liable to violent assaults. The widely scattered populations of our country

regions and the congested crowds of our city slums offer unusual opportunities to lustful brutality. On our western plains, in mining and manufacturing regions, where the foreign element is large, and especially in the Southern States, where the black race predominates, and where large numbers of men are employed in domestic duties, the helplessness of women reaches its maximum. It may be safely said that no woman in our Southern States is ever entirely free from the danger of assault. This is the chief cause of the greater prevalence of homicide in this section, and, at the same time, of the frequency with which lynching is resorted to. It cannot rightly be left out of sight when the causes of homicide are being sought.

3. Another element in the problem which must not be forgotten is the low standard of professional honor which is tolerated in our criminal courts. It is a notorious fact that practices prevail in them which would not be permitted in our other courts of law; lower standards of professional morality have been allowed to establish themselves there. Lawyers openly use dishonest means for the defense of criminals which would be instantly ruled out from any other court, and yet their offences are overlooked and condoned, and the sacred cause of justice suffers. Until public opinion demands of all lawyers employed in the defense of criminals a purer practice and a higher standard of professional integrity, we must expect the crime of homicide to increase in our midst.

But now let us turn to the remedies which Professor Lombroso prescribes for this dangerous disease which afflicts our body politic. As has been indicated above, we should add several others to the excellent correctives proposed by him.

1. The pardoning power ought to be strictly limited or altogether abolished. Even in the hands of an upright and conscientious public servant it may, and often must, defeat the ends of justice. When entrusted absolutely to an unscrupulous politician (ignorant of law), to a weak and timorous character, or to a big-hearted and impulsive man of the people, it is a dangerous power. Under all circumstances the knowledge that it is to be exercised must weaken and undermine the public sense of the inflexible force of law.

2. We need to consider whether modern modes of life do not involve peculiar danger to womankind, and whether they cannot be so reformed as to secure for her greater safety from criminal assault. We ought also to provide better police protection for her, such as would reasonably guarantee the speedy capture of any assailant upon her honor. Finally, we should demand such prompt and summary execution of our laws against criminal assault as will impress all who are tempted to the commission of this crime with the certainty of severe punishment.

3. We must secure (by bringing to bear an enlightened public opinion upon our criminal courts) a higher standard of professional morality. We cannot afford to be careless in this matter, involving, as it does, our very dearest interests as citizens and the dignity of the law. Men who lend themselves to unprofessional trickery and deliberately undertake the defeat of justice ought to be ostracised and openly condemned, not only by all good lawyers, but by all decent citizens, and their offences ought to be made amenable to law.

4. One of Professor Lombroso's remedies is, in our judgment, hardly heroic enough. It cannot be that he is fully aware of the aggravated nature of the disease. American "yellow journalism" has gone to unheard-of

lengths in the publication of criminal intelligence. It exerts an enormous influence in the development of crime and has become a menace to the security of our individual and national life. Its pages are the most powerful incentives to crime, and are quite as injurious to the welfare of our people as are the open doors of the brothel and the saloon. If we can regulate the one by law, we can and should reach and control the other by the same instrumentality. The time has come when journalism must be restrained by the strong hand of the law. The true "freedom of the press" will not thus be abridged. There is no liberty guaranteed by our national principles to any man to endanger the life, liberty, or happiness of his fellow-citizens in order to gratify his own greed of gain. A bill lately before the legislature of New York provided that "any person who conducts a paper which corrupts, depraves, degrades, or injures, or has a tendency to corrupt, deprave, degrade, or injure the mind or morals of the public, or of its readers, or of the people among whom it circulates, is guilty of a misdemeanor." Such a law, wisely framed and with heavy penalties attached, should be enacted and enforced in every State of the Union.

5. We cannot but feel that, after all, Professor Lombroso has omitted all mention of the most needful and effective of all remedies for the prevention of homicide, namely, the Christian religion. Surely it must be acknowledged that Christianity has been the most consistent and powerful champion of the sacredness of human life which the world has ever seen. All the world over we can measure the value and safety of human life by simply determining the hold which Christianity has upon the people in that locality. It has been abundantly proved in all ages that a high degree of civilization does not guarantee safety of life and limb. The histories of France and Rome are eloquent upon this theme. After all that has been said and done, the only force which can be depended upon to control the settlers of our new lands, the alien multitudes of our immigrants from foreign shores, and our half-civilized millions of emancipated slaves, and to restrain them from crime, is the Christian religion. Until this is brought home to them in all its purity and power, the terrible crime of homicide will continue to be a blot upon the fair face of American civilization.

WYLLYS REDE.

---

#### BOYS' CLUBS.

MAY I, as well as Mr. Sanborn, occupy a little space in the *NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, with a discussion of "Boys, and Boys' Clubs?" Only through open discussion, and much comparing of notes and experiences, will it be possible to discover some satisfactory system for running our Boys' Clubs, and until this system shall have been found, I cannot believe the last word on education has been spoken.

Mr. Robert Herbert Quick says that the fourfold results of education are (or should be) virtue, wisdom, good manners and learning. It is clear that the greater part of the time spent in schools must be devoted to learning only, for, although at the present time no more facts are taught there than are necessary, yet complaints are often heard that children in school are "crammed" and overworked. Where, when, and how, then, are virtue, wisdom, and good manners to be taught those children particularly whose families, or whose surroundings, make these things exceedingly difficult of attainment.